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Message Text

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44
ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 EB-11

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 INT-08 SCEM-02 RSR-01

/120 W

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R 271628Z AUG 73
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7060
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

UNCLAS BONN 12234

E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: ENGR, BFOL, CF
SUBJECT: PETROLEUM REFINERY PROJECTS

REF: (A) USDOC 10200 (NOTAL)
(B) STATE A-4458 (NOTAL)

1. THE US INTERST SECTION OF THE FRG EMBASSY, BRAZZAVILLE HAS PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON THE VOEST-LINZ-BRAZZAVILLE PETROLEUM REFINERY PROJECT. THE PARAGRAPS BELOW ARE KEYED TO POINTS RAISED IN THE SECTION "ACTION REQUESTED" OF REF (B).

2. BEGIN QUOTE: STAGE OF PROJECT. AT THE END OF 1970, THE BELGIAN CONSORTIUM SIBETRA CONCLUDED A CONTRACT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO FOR THE ERECTION OF A CRUDE OIL REFINERY IN THE HARBOR CITY OF POINTE-NOIRE. IN THE MEANTIME, EARTH MOVING WORK HAS BEGUN. THE REFINERY ITSELF WILL PROBABLY BE PRE-FABRICATED IN BELGIUM AND ASSEMBLED HERE.
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3 INTENDED SIZE OR COST OF PLANT. THE PLANT IS TO BE BUILT FOR

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AN ANNUAL CAPACITY OF ONE MILLION TONS OF PETROLEUM. ACTUAL THROUGHOUT IS TO AMOUNT TO ABOUT 55 PERCENT OF THE INPUT CAPACITY.

THE COST HAS BEEN ESTIMATED TO BE ABOUT 15 MILLION FCFA.

4. INTENDED SOURCE OF FINANCING. SIBETRA HAS CONCLUDED SUB-CONTRACTS WITH INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIA FOR THE FINANCING OF THE PLANNED REFINERY, INCLUDING ONE AUSTRIAN FIRM. IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE HERE TO ESTABLISH WHETHER THIS FIRM IS IDENTICAL WITH VOEST. OTHER PARTNER FIRMS INCLUDE ONE SPANISH COMPANY BASED IN MALAGA AND THE NORTH AMERICAN PLANET COMPANY OF TEXAS WHICH, REPORTEDLY, IS A MAJOR FINANCING FIRM. A LARGE NUMBER OF POLISH TECHNICIANS WHO PERFORM PREPARATORY WORK SUCH AS ROAD BUILDING AND EXCAVATION ARE CONSIDERED AS "GUEST LABORERS" OF SIBETRA. THE CONTRACT WITH SIBETRA PROVIDES THAT THIS FIRM WILL MANAGE THE PLANNED REFINERY AFTER START OF PRODUCTION FOR A PERIOD OF 7 YEARS. THEREAFTER THE PLAN IS TO TRANSFER THE REFINERY TO THE CONGOLESE GOVERNMENT. THE CONGOLESE GOVERRNMENT PLANS TO ACQUIRE THE PLANT WITH THE REVENUES IT COLLECTS FROM ITS OPERATIONS. THE DATE OF COMPLETION OF THE REFINERY HAS BEEN STATED HERE TO BE IN EARLY 1975. A LARGE PART OF THE REFINERY PRODUCTS WILL BE EXPORTED.

5. IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO FIND OUT WHETHER ANY PRE-FEASIBILITY STUDIES WERE CARRIED THROUGH BY OTHER FIRMS.

6. NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF KEY OFFICIALS IN THE PROGRAM: A) THE FIRM SIBETRA MENTIONED ABOVE. B) A CONGOLESE CITIZEN, MR. EYALA OF POINTE-NOIRE, WHO WAS APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF THE PLANNED REFINERY ONE YEAR AGO.

7. PROBABLE COMPETITOR FIRMS FROM THIRD COUNTRIES. NOT APPLICABLE. END QUOTE.HILLENBRAND

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